

Claim Amendments

1. (Original)

A drum hoop, comprising:

an annular ring having an inward face, an outward face, and upper edge, and a lower edge;

a plurality of flanges formed on the outward face of the ring, projecting radially outwardly from the lower edge thereof, said flanges having a lower surface residing within a single reference plane; and

a plurality of parallel visual guidelines formed on the inward face of the ring, said guidelines positioned parallel to the reference plane.

2. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 1, wherein said guidelines are uniformly spaced apart.

3. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 1, wherein said guidelines are printed indicia.

4. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 3, wherein each said guideline is formed of a continuous line of printed indicia extending around the inward face of the ring.

5. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 1, wherein said guidelines are grooves formed into the surface of the ring.

6. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 5, wherein each said guideline is a continuous groove extending around the inward face of the ring.

7. (Original)

A drum hoop for retaining a drumhead on a drum shell, comprising:
an annular ring having an inward face, an outward face, and upper edge, and a lower edge;
a plurality of flanges formed on the outward face of the ring, projecting radially outwardly from the lower edge thereof, said flanges having a lower surface residing within a single reference plane; and
a plurality of parallel visual guidelines formed on the inward face of the ring, said guidelines positioned parallel to the reference plane.

8. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 7, wherein said guidelines are uniformly spaced apart.

9. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 7, wherein said guidelines are printed indicia.

10. (Original)

The drum hoop of claim 7, wherein said guidelines are grooves formed into the surface of the ring.

11. (Currently amended)

A method for evenly tuning a drumhead on a drum, the drum of a type having a shell with an open end and a drum hoop adjustably connected to the

shell to stretch a drum head over the open end of the shell, the drum hoop including a plurality of flanges formed on the outward face of the ring, projecting radially outwardly from the lower edge thereof, said flanges having a lower surface residing within a single reference plane, the drum hoop of the type having a plurality of parallel visual guidelines on an inward face oriented parallel to the reference plane, comprising the step of adjusting the connection of the hoop to the shell until the drumhead is parallel to ~~the drumhead is taut~~ and one of the visual guidelines is ~~parallel with the drumhead~~.